

COMMUNITY NEWS



Pictured L to R: Jennifer Grissett-treasurer, Kristin Barnes-event planner chairman, Mallory Allen-event planner co-chairman, Lyndsay Lawford-president and Cameron Irwin-secretary

Senior Girls Scouts will be accepting donations for leukemia

The Senior Girl Scouts are rallying one of their own. They will be out for the next few weeks collecting money for the leukemia drive in honor of former Troop 300 member, Robyn Rhodes Wilborn, who is a leukemia survivor.

Robyn battled leukemia as an infant, enduring five years of chemotherapy. She has been symptom free since then and now devotes lots of her time and energy to fund raising for leukemia research.

Robyn and her husband, Barney, are in training now to run in the Virginia Beach Leukemia Marathon. They are

asking friends to support them in the marathon by contributing to the fight to conquer leukemia.

They would like to present the money collected at the event in mid July.

Barney and Robyn live in Kechi, Kansas where Barney

does research with the Excel

Corporation and Robyn is a

survivor. In his letter to friends,

Barney stated that "this will

give me a chance to be a part

of Robyn's life that I know nothing about."

Senior Girl Scout, Kristen Barnes, added, "We need to do this. We need to support Robyn, and you never know when this

disease will hit someone you love."

The Senior Scouts are asking Elba to help them fight leukemia. Checks should be made out to the Leukemia Society and are tax deductible.

Contributions of cash are asked

to put their name on paper

attached to the money so that

Robyn will know of everyone's

interest and help. All Girl

Scouts, present and former, are

asked to contribute at least one

dollar in order to put their

names on the list. If you don't

know a Girl Scout, call Mrs.

Robert Camon.

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EDITORIAL

BRAINSTORMS
with Ferrin Cox

The following quote came in recently in some health related article. It caught our attention. You can read the quote from several angles. **First**, it is dealing with statistics and such numbers can be twisted to tell most any desired story. "Figures don't lie, liars do figure." In nice words, we can use the numbers to distort things. **Secondly**, we have got to die from something and if your heart stops, you die and it can be classified as heart disease. It is like dying when a car crashes into a tree - do we blame it on "speed", "rain", "gasoline kills", "the tree killed him", etc. **Thirdly**, a person can read the numbers as telling us to take better care of our health and live longer. It is suggested that is the intended message which follows. "There are 10,000 ways you can check out of this world," added American Cancer Society Chief Executive Officer John Seffrin. "But last year 90 percent of all deaths in America were from 10 things, and 90 percent of that 90 percent was from 4 things - heart disease, cancer, stroke and diabetes."

It shocked a number of our close friends and extended family members that *The Elba Clipper* closed for the holiday Monday. Usually we are struggling to get a newspaper out. However it has reached a point when there is virtually no one around for us to get ads and news from - therefore we closed and celebrated the holiday also. Yours truly handled it fairly well, mainly because of having our four year old granddaughter here for several days. The scary thing was that Tuesday morning we had a brain flash of still not wanting to come to work! That is not our normal outlook, not by a long shot, and will become a real concern if such thoughts begin to dominate the early mornings.

We attended a traditional, long standing family reunion Saturday. There was the usual crowd, but also the daughter of a now deceased cousin, a girl who hasn't seen since she was a baby and she now has grown children of her own. Her parents moved up north to work in Washington D.C. and didn't come back for family reunions until after she was out of college and married. She is an only child, but gave birth to five children - including two (2) sets of twins. We have always been amazed at that fact and still wonder what the odds are on such things happening naturally. Of course with modern medical aids to child bearing, multiple births are more often, but these were all the work of God, without a doctor's help.

This area has seen a lot of rain lately, but is still below average. In fact we are still below last year by a sizable amount. Even so a question was put to us last week about the river level. Folks if you haven't noticed, Pea River is well within its banks. The latest numbers from the seventeen (17) flood warning river gauges monitored by the Choctawhatchee, Pea and Yellow River Watershed Management Authority show virtually every one reporting less rain than the year before - both in the month of June and the annual total. Of all the gauges which measure water, which flows through Elba only, Big Creek and Lowery Mill gauges showed a slight increase in June '04 over June '03. The same for the Bullock and Barbour County measurements. Of course all this is a lot more water, which was received in 2001 when Elba gauges registered a total of only 40.295 inches for the whole year, and the 2002 rainfall for Elba was 57.160 inches. To date in 2004 the Elba gauge has recorded 26.30 inches of rain, compared to 34.40 for the same period last year.

Elba High School's AHSGE
Summer Remediation Schedule

The Alabama High School Graduation Exam remediation schedule for all subject area tests will be held on the following dates:

July 12-14 • 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

**In addition to the above remediation sessions, approximately two hours of review will be conducted the night before each of the five subtests are administered.

The test schedule for the Summer Administration of the AHSGE will be as follows beginning promptly at 8 a.m.:

Monday, July 19 • Social Studies
Tuesday, July 20 • Science
Wednesday, July 21 • Math
Thursday, July 22 • Reading
Friday, July 23 • Language

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USPS 171-080

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Ricky Mularz - SPORTS

Heddy J. Cox - BUSINESS MANAGER

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

County & Surrounding Counties - \$19 per year
6 Months - \$10, including city & state tax

Alabama Counties - \$21 per year - including tax
6 months - \$11

Outside Alabama - \$24 per year - 6 months - \$13

Alabama Attorney General requests "Alabama Open Meetings Act" bill be considered during any extra session of Legislature

by Troy King, Attorney General

After the close of the 2004 Regular Session, Alabama still remains in crisis. We have failed to move any closer to addressing

the most serious problem facing

our state today, a lack of trust in

government. During the last session

Representative Blaine Galliher sponsored legislation

that would have begun legisla-

tion, entitled the "Alabama Sunshine Law" that allows for a board or commission to go into an executive or secret session while discussing matters "the public of which could reasonably be expected to be detrimental to the public safety or welfare."

This was a needed adjustment, but is a far cry from what is needed to provide a fundamental change in the relationship between

our people and their government.

That is why I delivered a letter to Governor Bob Riley this week

urging him to include and sup-

port this important legislation in

any extraordinary session he

may call of the Legislature or

during the next regular session.

Our republican form of govern-

ment rests upon our ability to

see and understand the actions

taken by our elected officials

and our ability to hold them

accountable for their actions.

If meetings in which important

decisions occur behind a veil of

secrecy, how can we, the people,

hold them accountable?

Governor Riley called for

greater transparency in govern-

ment during his 2004 "State of

the State" address.

Transparency can only be

achieved by allowing the people

to see, hear, and read the actions

of those elected or appointed to

serve in our government. The

current law fails in providing

the Legislature did pass an

amendment to the current

law.

The Elba Police Department, begining Monday, June 28, 2004, investigated the following incidents: one disorderly con-

versation, one driving under the influence, one possession of mariju-

ana, one minor in posses-

sion, one for possession of a

controlled substance, one for pos-

session of drug paraphernalia,

one fireworks accident, one

disturbance (noise) reported

at 1316 Neil Grantham Dr.

(4:36 p.m.); Disturbance re-

ported at the ball field on Jones

Circle (10:05 p.m.).

Under Galliher's legislation, the exceptions are narrowly tailored to provide confidentiality only where it is absolutely needed.

The exceptions are listed with specificity to provide a clear guideline for all governmental bodies to easily follow. The legislation defines key terms such as "meeting," "governmental body," and general reputation and character." While no legislation

permits us to do this, the Legislature or

any other legislative body

can easily make this change.

It is important to note that the

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CHURCH NEWS

Homecoming set for Sunday, July 11th at Bluff Springs Baptist Church

Bluff Springs Baptist Church will have their homecoming and end July 14, 2004 at 7:00 pm. The speaker will be Rev. W.O. Sanders.

Chestnut Grove Methodist Church to celebrate homecoming Sunday, July 11

Chestnut Grove Methodist Church will celebrate Homecoming on July 11, 2004, at 11:00 am. Rev. John Morgan will bring the morning message. Special singing I planned. A covered dish lunch will follow.

Chestnut Grove Methodist Church will have a Revival beginning Monday, July 12 at 7:00 pm. Rev. Rich Hayes from Hebron Baptist Church will be preaching.

Community Crusade to be held in Elba July 6-10

The Church of God and of Prophecy will hold a Community Crusade July 6 through 10 at 7:00 pm.

The Schedule will be: On

Tuesday Bro. Tyrone & Sister

Helen Leonard, Evangelist No

Greater Love Ministry, Abbeville, Alabama

Wednesday Bro. Harold Petts

Pastor of the Church of God of Prophecy invite you to come

join us for a night of sing

pray worship with us.

Services will be held at Elba

Church of God (Across from

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WAS LIFE
AND THE
LIFE WAS
THE LIGHT
OF MEN

ALBERTON BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. Carroll - Pastor

Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.

Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m.

Even. Worship.....6:00 p.m.

Wed. Prayer Service.....7:00 p.m.

BETHULICAN METHODIST
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Rev. Phillip Cope, Pastor

Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.

Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m.

Even. Worship.....6:00 p.m.

Wed. Prayer Service.....7:00 p.m.

BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH
Larry Caldwell, Pastor

Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.

Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m.

Even. Worship.....6:00 p.m.

Wed. Bible Class.....6:30 p.m.

BLUFF SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH
Tom Stein, Pastor

Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.

Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m.

Even. Worship.....6:00 p.m.

Wed. Prayer Service.....7:00 p.m.

CHRISTIAN GROVE METHODIST
Rev. Martha Bates

Church Service.....9:00 a.m.

2nd & 4th Sundays

Sunday School.....9:00 a.m.

1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays

Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.

2nd & 4th Sundays

Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.

1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays

Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.

1st, 3rd &

CLASSIFIEDS

The Elba Clipper

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REAL ESTATE Auction - Saturday, July 10th, 10 a.m. Hilliard, AL 36346 944/- acres, Cheroals Farm, Green, 10% BP. Chuck Crump, AAL #1539. Brochure @ 1-256-533-7525. www.amerisouthauctions.com. (R)

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YARD SALE

YARD SALE - JULY 10, 8:00-12:00 Noon at Hudson's Old Store, Hwy 189. Multiple Family. 7-8-1tc

YARD SALE - 1475 North Claxton Ave. SATURDAY, JULY 10, 7:00 A.M. AMERICAN

LADY, 7:00 A.M. MILITARY

Lucky candidates will be contacted. 7-8-1tc

YARD SALE - FRI JULY 9th 7:00 A.M. Until... Highway 84, Shiloh Community. Between Elba & New Brockton. Lots of Boy's Clothes, Size 3 to 5. Shoes, Adult Clothes, Antiques, Household Items. Much to Mention. 7-8-1p

2 - FAMILY YARD SALE SATURDAY, JULY 10th, 7:00 a.m. Until. No Early Birds. 7-8-1t

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FOR SALE

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SPORTS

Views from...

The Pressbox

By Ricky Mularz, Sports Editor

The long summer softball season finally came to an end for Melanie last week and after looking at the bruises on her legs and waist the night after the final game it may have come just in time. Melanie found out the hard way that when you are a good hitter the opponents sometimes take notice as she was hit by a pitch five times in the final two games in the tournament, and late in the final game collided with a teammate while running for a pop-up and took a hard hit just inside the hip. It was fun while it lasted, but even a young girl needs a rest now and then!

FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH...

*** The Elba Dixie Angels All-Stars punched their ticket to the District Tournament last week by winning the sub-district title in Elba. The Angels claimed four wins in their five-game tourney and, defeated pre-tourney favorite Troy with along the way. These young ladies worked hard getting ready for the tournament and really made us all very proud when they walked off the field with the championship trophy. Congratulations to the girls and to Kim and Stuart Bane for their fine job coaching. The tournament last week should make the league even better next season.

*** The Elba Dixie Angels All-Stars placed second in the sub-district tournament in Luverne and simply could not get past Troy in their quest to bring home the tournament crown. The Belles survived an opening round loss to Troy to bounce back and make their way to the championship game, but ran out of gas after banging up 19 hits and scoring 32 runs in a win over Greenville. These girls competed against both the Belles and Elba during the regular season and never complained, and even though they were forced to settle for second last week in Luverne, they represented Elba and their league very well. Good job.

The heavy rains that dumped water on the ball fields last week required in many long hours of hard work for the members of the Elba Recreation Department; however, only two nights were rained out and the elevation of scheduled games and everyone in attendance was amazed at the condition of the fields after the work was completed. It took a lot of work and a lot of raking to get the fields ready, but the games went on planned and no teams suffered because of the rain. I'll admit the Rec crews also got a little lucky as some of the storms by passed Elba in the heat of time.

*** The Elba Dixie Youth All-Stars are hosting the sub-district tournament up at Legion Field and even though they split the first two games the Elba boys did make some noise. Kyle Pope gave Elba an early 2-0 lead against Enterprise with a long two-run homer, while the All-Stars rallied late to survive a 9-8 shootout with Brundidge. No doubt these guys have given the Elba fans plenty to cheer about already.

*** In closing... a settlement was reached last week between the Washington County Board of Education and a group of parents and alumni that will allow the students at McIntosh High School to choose a new mascot for the school. The school's nickname was the Demons until it was dropped in 2001, and since that time it has been the only school in the state that did not have a nickname. The old mascot will be among the names to be voted on when school re-opens later this summer, and many feel the nickname "Demons" will be reinstated. The nickname was dropped after a complaint by a local pastor back in 2001 and the students then voted in the new nickname "Players," but it too was dropped because of it being a slang term for street hustlers. One thing for sure, this election will be one that draws statewide attention.

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Claim four wins in five games

Dixie Angels All-Stars claim tournament title

The Elba Dixie Angels All-Stars posted four wins in five games last week to claim the championship of the Dixie Angels District 6, Sub-District A Softball Tournament, held at the Elba High School softball field, in Elba.

Luverne placed second in the six-team event, followed in order by Troy, Highland Home, Greenville and Covington County.

Following are highlights of Elba's games in the tournament.

ELBA 21

The Elba All-Stars fell behind 3-1 early, but broke loose and scored 18 runs in their next three at-bats and held on late to outscore Troy 21-16, in opening round action. Aaliyah Horstead walked and later scored on a fielder's choice to give Elba a 1-0 lead, only to see Troy plate three runs in the bottom of the first to grab a 3-1 advantage.

Elba combined nine runs in the top of the second and one as the All-Stars regained the lead at 3-3, and Elba added four runs in the third to extend their lead to 12-3. Molly McGuire and Sarah Bane both singled in the fourth run, and Elba combined three walks with a bases-loaded triple by Bethany Wilson to lead the top of the fifth. Paige Gibson had 2 hits and scored 1 run, while Mandi Mallory, Bethany Wilson, Jacqueta Daniels and Brianna Jackson all scored 1 run.

ELBA 11
LUVERNE 1

The Elba All-Stars made it look easy in second round action as they rolled past Luverne 11-1, in four innings. Elba combined three walks with the two hits to lead the top of the first, only to see Luverne bang out 3 hits to cut the lead to 2-1 in the bottom of the frame. Elba took advantage of six walks to plate three runs in the fourth and broke out the hitting sticks in the fifth as Bethany Wilson, Kelsey Sanders and Paige Gibson all ripped doubles to spark Elba to the winning run in the bottom of the fifth. Paige Gibson had 2 hits and scored 2 runs to lead Elba at the top of the first, then added four runs in the second to open a big 11-0 advantage! Elba received two walks in the second round, but Luverne had some noise of its own at the plate as Mandi Mallory, Bethany Wilson, Jacqueta Daniels and Brianna Jackson all scored 1 run.

ELBA 8-7 LUVERNE 2

The Elba All-Stars bounced back with a vengeance in the championship game as they pounded Luverne 15-2 in four innings to claim the tournament title. Elba combined eight walks with base hits by Shabria Thomas and Molly McGuire to jump out to a quick 7-0 lead in the first, then added four runs in the second to open a big 11-0 advantage! Elba received two walks in the second round, but Luverne had some noise of its own at the plate as Mandi Mallory, Bethany Wilson, Jacqueta Daniels and Brianna Jackson all scored 1 run.

ELBA 21
TROY 16

The Elba All-Stars struck out 17 batters in seven innings, but it wasn't enough to quiet the Luverne bats as Luverne had 9 hits and surprised the Elba All-Stars 8-7, to force a final contest. Luverne combined two hits with two walks and two hit batters to plate two runs in the second behind the hitting of Mandi Mallory and Sarah Bane and easily held on to the lead at 3-2. Page Bowell, Elba's Brianna Jackson walked and later scored on an RBI single by Molly McGuire in the bottom of the fifth as the All-Stars had 10 hits to within 3-1, then pulled even at 3-3. Shelly Vinson drew a walk to open the inning and later scored 1 run on a single by Kayla Bagwell, while Shabria Thomas also singled and later scored 2 runs to tie the lead. Elba scored four runs and left the bases loaded to open a 7-3 lead, but Troy scored 1 run on a single by Shelly Vinson, while Shabria Thomas also singled and later scored 2 runs to tie the lead. Elba scored four runs and left the bases loaded to open a 10-3 advantage.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

XTREME FITNESS CENTER 24-HOUR GYM AND TANNING celebrated its grand opening Saturday, July 3rd. The center is located on Alabama Highway 87 north of Elba. Among those present to assist the owners with the grand opening ceremonies were the Zion Chapel beauty queens. Those pictured above include: Junior Miss Zion Chapel Amber Grissett; Slade, Stephanie, Gage, Danny, Skyler and Kathy Nalley - owners; and Future Little Miss Zion Chapel Angel Flowers.

Kimberly Ward named to Dean's List at the University of Southern Mississippi

The University of Southern Mississippi Dean's List has been released for the 2004 Spring semester. Kimberly Ward of Elba, Ala.

with at least a 3.25 grade point average but less than a 4.0. A student recognized includes Kimberly Ward of Elba, Ala.

Dean's List scholars are those

Former Elba resident publishes book

Mike Stanton-Rich, a 1978 Elba High School graduate, recently published a book entitled, "It's My Job" through Lulu Enterprises, Inc., of North Carolina (www.lulu.com). Copies are available from the publisher or your favorite online bookseller.

"It's My Job" is a collection of short stories covering the diverse work life of an adventurous individual. The book is described as a book that is about seeking a life and ultimately a life. From his FFA projects to his work as a pastor, Stanton-Rich shows that his work history is not only humorous, but has some depth as well.

"It's My Job" has been used in elementary classrooms and in teaching English to Japanese college students. Persons of all

ages and cultures have discovered it as an entertaining read. This book has a way of asking some serious questions like: "Who are you? What is important in life? What do you want to do when you grow up?" But they are asked in a warm and witty way.

Stanton-Rich is currently the pastor of Kobe Union Church, an international and interdenominational church in Kobe, Japan. He is a United Methodist pastor who has served in Western North Carolina, Mississippi and Alabama. He is a graduate of Huntingdon College, Duke University and the University of Maryland.

He is a self-described "tale-spinner" and uses story to preach, teach and inspire. He preaches nearly every Sunday to

a multilingual congregation in Japan, and regularly shares stories of growing up in the rural south with business people, student groups and through various publications.

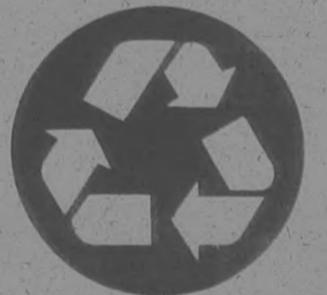
More information on Mike Stanton-Rich and "It's My Job" are available online at <http://www.lulu.com/seatonybooks>.

NOTICE

TOWN HALL MEETING will be held Thursday, July 29, at 7 p.m., at the First Baptist Church Social Hall in Elba. Cheryl Morgan, an architect from Auburn University, will host the meeting concerning the revitalization of the city.



Coffee County Youth Leadership Class 2003-2004... (from left to right): Front Row: Kristine Campbell (Enterprise); Cameron Irwin (Elba); Rebecca English (Elba); Kristin Barnes (Elba); Lindsay Lawford (Elba); Genevieve Olinb (Elba); Britney Holley (Kinston); Breanne Hattaway (Kinston); Tiffany Wilson (Kinston); Middle Row: Taylor McGuire (Elba); Roy King (Zion Chapel); Drew Donaldson (New Brockton); Bradley Bane (Elba); Caleb Dyess (Elba); Back Row: Kristi Spinks (Elba); Brittnay Houston (Enterprise); Shana Grondin (New Brockton); Freda Kelley (New Brockton); Kathryn Erker (Enterprise); Allison Jennings (Enterprise); Jessica Goetz (Enterprise); Tiffany McGrath (Enterprise); Jessica Lacey (Enterprise); Sonya Hornsby (New Brockton). Not pictured: Michael Sneed (Zion Chapel)



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INSIDE

Mr. and Mrs.
Harold Kelley
celebrates 50th
anniversary

INSIDE

Elba Dixie Youth
All-Stars place
third in tourney

The Elba Clipper

Volume 108, Number 5

50 Cents

Elba, Alabama

Thursday, July 15, 2004

1 Section, 12 Pages Plus 2 Adv. Inserts

Court declares Coffee County School System unitary

In a final judgment received Monday, July 12, the United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama declared the Coffee County School System to be unitary and dismissed the Lee vs. Coffee County Board of Education litigation.

"On behalf of the Coffee County Board of Education, I want to emphasize that this decision does not by any means end the efforts of the System to act in a nondiscriminatory manner with regard to all of its activities," said Dr. Linda Ingram, superintendent of the Coffee County School System.

"The board has long had an official policy that it does not discriminate in any of its practices on the basis of race, color, disability, sex, religion, creed, national origin or age." Nothing about this decision will change the policy of the board."

As noted in the court's order, the Lee Litigation "began as part of a statewide class action filed in 1963 alleging that the State has (operated) a mandatory, segregated school system." The Coffee County Schools were added to the suit in 1969.

In a previous order released as part of a consent decree in September 1998, the court

declared the Coffee County system unitary "in the areas of transportation and student assignment between schools." The other areas that remained before the court were "faculty assignment, high school in-class assignment, including the awarding of diplomas, special education, including gifted and talented, discipline,

that notice of the fairness hearing was properly given, and that the school district defendants have met the standards entitling the district to a declaration of unitary status.

The Board has fully and satisfactorily complied with the conditions of this case." The vestiges of the prior de jure segregated school system have been eliminated to the extent practicable.

During Coffee County Commission meeting

Request of Elba Industrial Board narrowly approved

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The Coffee County Commission narrowly voted to approve a request Monday, July 12, from the Elba Industrial Board regarding an expansion project for Kelley Foods of Alabama.

Paul Morrow, a member of the Elba Industrial Board, addressed commissioners during the bimonthly meeting, and requested the county's assistance in site preparation for the local company's expansion.

County engineer Randy Tindell asked Morrow if the request was to assist the City of Elba with the site preparation, and Morrow responded with a "yes."

"Whatever we can do to help expand local business, you can

look for my hand in it," said commissioner Berpest Brooks.

The Coffee County

Commissioner Doug Dalrymple said he would rather see the county assist by monetary means rather than assisting with the site preparation. He said the county already is behind in its road work, and he does not think it (county) has the time or equipment to help with the site preparation.

Also, he expressed a concern that the county is taking jobs away from residents with businesses that handle the kind of work requested from the county for the Kelley's project.

"I would be in favor of assisting Elba financially but not through equipment," Dalrymple.

Officers found over 400 marijuana plants in Elba several

act in a nondiscriminatory manner with regard to all of its activities," said Dr. Linda Ingram, superintendent of the Coffee County School System.

The court also finds that the Board has demonstrated a good faith commitment to the whole of the provisions of the law and the Constitution that were pre-dicated for judicial review in this school system in the first instance through the Board's compliance with the court's order over the years, through its good faith implementation of its contractual obligations under the (1998) Consent Decree, and through its continued commitment to the continued operation of a school system in compliance with the Constitution in the future.

The plaintiff parties have succeeded in the task they began decades ago to seek the end of the de jure system of school desegregation in the Coffee County school district. By this lawsuit, they sought to bring the district in compliance with the constitutional requirement of equal protection under the law and the court states today that they have succeeded. By its actions today, the court recognizes and congratulates the sustained efforts of all the parties in bringing this long-standing litigation to a final conclusion."

The court went on to declare that control over the system was "properly returned to the Coffee County Board of Education" and ended the court's supervision.

"On behalf of the Coffee County Board of Education, I want to emphasize that this decision does not by any means end the efforts of the System

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The plaintiff parties have succeeded in the task they began decades ago to seek the end of the de jure system of school desegregation in the Coffee County school district. By this lawsuit, they sought to bring the district in compliance with the constitutional requirement of equal protection under the law and the court states today that they have succeeded. By its actions today, the court recognizes and congratulates the sustained efforts of all the parties in bringing this long-standing litigation to a final conclusion."

The court went on to declare that control over the system was "properly returned to the Coffee County Board of Education" and ended the court's supervision.

"On behalf of the Coffee County Board of Education, I want to emphasize that this decision does not by any means end the efforts of the System

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